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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Virtual Board of Education Meeting Scheduled for May 28

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a virtual board meeting on Thursday, May 28 at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to dial in. The number is (571) 317-3122, and the access code is 402-758-717.

Anson County Has 62 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday, May 26

As of Tuesday, May 26 the Anson County Health Department reported that Anson County had 62 reported cases of COVID-19, with 19 of those cases active. At this point they have discharged 43 cases, 42 to baseline health and one death.

Free Groceries for Families in Need June 3

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missional Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be at Forestville United Methodist Church, located at 5238 Vintage Road in Lilesville, on Wednesday, June 3. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 8 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food.
- If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445.
- You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tschumpert@wnccumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need. If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

HOLLA! Scholarship Recipients

The HOLLA! organization is excited and pleased to announce the following HOLLA! scholarship recipients!

- The Mary E. Little Community Service/Humanitarian Award: Bianca Liles - Livingstone College
- The M.R. Bell Excellence in Achievement Award(s): Janiah Lindsey - UNC Greensboro & Enderia Richardson - Wingate University

HOLLA! CEO Leon Gatewood said, "We have an additional exciting announcement! HOLLA! Eagles tennis player Brenre Taylor has accepted a \$10,000 scholarship offer to play tennis at Livingstone College!"

South Carolina Shooting Suspects Arrested in Anson County May 22

Alexis Storm Flores, 19, and De'Andre Tyrone Linnen, 20, were taken into custody after a traffic stop in Anson County on Friday, May 22. Linnen and Flores were wanted in connection with a burglary and shooting in Murrells Inlet, SC. Extradition of both suspects on charges of Attempted Murder and First Degree Burglary was pending.

According to police reports, four suspects were burglarizing a home during the day when the homeowner walked in unexpectedly. Deputies said the homeowner told them he came home for lunch and heard the people in his home. The homeowner said that he believes he was shot in the abdomen with his own weapon as he fought off the people trying to rob him. He was transported to an area hospital.

According to the police report, a witness who lives in the building next door said he heard a gunshot, then saw three suspects run out of the victim's home and into a white Volkswagen minivan with a female driver waiting inside. Deputies identified the driver as Storm Flores. The witness said he recognized the woman from high school. He described the other suspects as well. The other two suspects remained at large as of press time.

NC 4-H Summer 2020 Virtual Camp Out

North Carolina 4-H is excited to offer a 4-H virtual summer camp experience for school-aged youth on June 22-26. Registration is free! Registration is open now. You can follow the event on Facebook or contact Sam Cole at the Anson Cooperative Extension for more information at 704-694-2415. The website is anson.ces.ncsu.edu. Also if you aren't already, follow the Anson County 4-H Facebook page for local 4-H opportunities, programs, and updates.

Know Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash

The NC Department of Health and Human Services is asking people to remember these three things as we stay strong and continue to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19.

If you leave home, practice your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash

- 1) Wear a cloth face covering if you will be with other people
- 2) Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- 3) Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

These actions can protect our families and neighbors as the state takes a cautious step forward to ease restrictions while the virus is still circulating.

All North Carolinians are encouraged to share this message in their businesses and through their organizations to protect our families and neighbors as the state takes a cautious step forward while the virus is still circulating.

Mrs. Pauline W. Kirby Celebrated Her 105th Birthday

This is a letter to the community from the family of Mrs. Pauline W. Kirby who turned 105 years old on Tuesday, April 28, 2020:

On behalf of the family of Mrs. Pauline W. Kirby, I would like to thank everyone who took part in helping her to celebrate her 105th birthday on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

First, I would like to thank the Wadesboro Health and Rehabilitation Center for all they have done. They helped to put together a celebration we all will never forget, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would also like to give thanks to all of the First Responders, Fire Department, Police and Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Landric Reid for participating in the parade at Wadesboro Health & Rehab. We cannot express how much joy it brought to our Aunt, Mrs. Pauline Kirby, and her family. We thank you for all the love that was shown. We thank God for blessing her to see her 105th birthday, and also for allowing us to witness it.

Again, we would like to thank everyone who participated in this great celebration.

Annie Robinson & the family of Mrs. Pauline W. Kirby



Governor Cooper Highlights Innovative Safety Training Program for Restaurants, Other Businesses

Count on Me NC provides free online training to protect customers and employees in Phase 2 and beyond

On Friday, May 22 Governor Roy Cooper and Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services were joined by North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association (NCRLA) President and CEO Lynn Minges to highlight Count on Me NC, a free online training program to help restaurants, hotels and other businesses learn the best ways to protect customers and employees from COVID-19.

"Our economy will rebound when people have confidence in their safety, and Count on Me NC is an innovative partnership to help businesses protect their customers and their employees," Governor Cooper said. "We will continue working with health experts and the private sector as we work to defeat COVID-19."

Businesses across North Carolina can participate in this no-cost training that was developed with the NC Department of Health and Human Services. It includes evidence-based practices on social distancing, employee health and sanitation to protect people's health.

The first phase of Count on Me NC training is designed for restaurants and hospitality businesses that serve food. The program plans to expand to other tourism businesses including lodging and attractions and add courses in Spanish by June.

As of today, more than 3,500 businesses have already completed Count on Me NC training with more signing up every day. Participating businesses will receive printable certificates to display in their establishments to show they completed the training.

"Count on Me conveys a sense of mutual responsibility as the hospitality industry prepares to welcome guests back into our dining rooms and other establishments," said Lynn Minges. "We believe customers will appreciate the commitment participating businesses are making to protect their health, the health of other patrons, and the health of our employees by following the guidance of top public health experts. At the same time, we will rely on our guests to do their part to limit risk to fellow diners and the people serving them."

Count on Me NC also encourages customers to take precautions before returning to restaurants, especially if they're in a high-risk population and to be respectful towards staff as they adjust to these guidelines. Individuals can take the Count on Me Pledge to practice the Three Ws - wear a face covering, wash hands frequently, wait six feet apart from others - and to stay home if they're feeling sick.

See which businesses have already completed training and learn more on how to participate at CountOnMeNC.org.

'On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive' Campaign has Begun

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving began the tenth annual "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign this past Memorial Day weekend. The multi-agency safety initiative works to reduce alcohol-related accidents on the state's roadways and waterways, both of which see increased traffic during summer months.

Over Memorial Day weekend enforcement officers conducted sobriety checkpoints and promoted public awareness to deter impaired operation of vehicles and vessels.

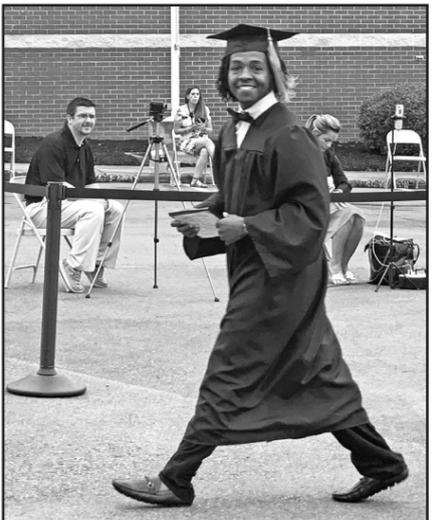
Awareness and enforcement efforts are centered on three of the busiest summer weekends, including: May 23-25; July 3-5 (which is Operation Dry Water); and Sept. 5-7.

The Commission advises anyone who plans to consume alcohol to designate a sober driver instead of getting behind the wheel of a car or a vessel. In North Carolina, a driver or vessel operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08, or is substantially impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, is subject to arrest.

The campaign is coordinated by the Commission and the State Highway Patrol, and supported by local police and sheriff's offices, along with participating non-governmental organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

For more information on boating safety and regulations, visit ncwildlife.org/boating.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com



Anson High Schools Held 2020 Graduation Ceremony on Saturday

Anson County high school graduates received their diplomas on Saturday, May 23. The unique ceremony, which resulted from the current COVID 19 pandemic, allowed each graduate to drive up, step out of their vehicle and walk a few steps to where their diploma awaited. Principals from each high school were on hand to call out their students names. Anson County Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman spoke to the graduates and staff. Freeman also thanked law enforcement for their important help. Please see the Express Newspaper's special graduation edition coming soon!